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MASSACHUSETTS OCEAN MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE NAMED

Former state environmental chief to lead panel

Massachusetts Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder today named Dr. Susan F. Tierney to chair the Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force and asked 22 others to serve on the panel. The Ocean Management Task Force is part of the Massachusetts Ocean Management Initiative announced by Governor Mitt Romney earlier this year.

"Sue brings a broad range of skills and talents to this initiative," said Ellen Roy Herzfelder, Secretary of Environmental Affairs. "Her leadership and the combined expertise of this task force will make Massachusetts a leader in ocean management."

The Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force will provide a structure for developing ocean management plans within state waters, which generally extend three miles offshore. The task force will review existing and potential user conflicts, examine and recommend potential changes to statutory, regulatory, and administrative approaches to managing ocean resources. The task force will develop principles that will serve as the framework for ocean management plans.

State ocean waters are owned by the Commonwealth and are held in trust for its citizens. Currently, the state lacks the ability to do offshore planning and is only able to review private project proposals in a reactive manner. Recent proposals in ocean waters off Massachusetts have revealed significant gaps in state and federal authority to permit offshore uses and lease open space.

"We use zoning as a means of planning on land for appropriate uses of largely privately-owned property, while virtually no planning is done for ocean spaces, which are public," said Secretary Roy Herzfelder. "It is time to put some rational ocean management policies in place."

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Dr. Tierney is currently a Senior Vice President of Lexecon, Inc., an economic, environmental, and policy consulting firm. She has served as Assistant Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Energy and was Secretary of Environmental Affairs under Governor William F. Weld. Dr. Tierney received her Ph.D. and Masters in regional planning from Cornell University and her undergraduate degree from Scripps College.

“I am honored that Secretary Roy Herzfelder has asked me to chair this task force,” said Dr. Tierney. “I look forward to working with the task force members and many others in the Commonwealth to find ways to protect the public’s varied interests in proper protection and use of our offshore resources. There are many interrelated and complex issues involved in ocean management and it comes as no surprise that Massachusetts is leading the way in dealing with them”

Rich Delaney, Director of the Urban Harbors Institute at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, praised the creation of the Task Force and Dr. Tierney as Chair. “With two national ocean commissions about to recommend changes for the management of federal waters, and the increasing number of proposed ocean-based projects and activities directly off the coast of Massachusetts, the appointment of an Ocean Management Task Force is very timely,” said Delaney. “Sue Tierney is an excellent choice to lead this effort.”

The Massachusetts Ocean Management Initiative will work with the federal government to create a U.S. ocean management policy to address these ocean issues in federal waters. Representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the New England Fisheries Management Council will be invited to join the task force as *ex officio* members.

Members of the Massachusetts congressional and state delegations will be invited to join the task force whose initial work is expected to be complete by February, 2004.

Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force as of June 4, 2003

Chair:

Susan Tierney, former U.S. Assistant Secretary for Energy; former EOEI Secretary

State Officials:

Paul Diodati, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries

Jim Hunt, Director, MEPA

David O’Connor, Director, Division of Energy Resources

Robbin Peach, Executive Director, Massachusetts Environmental Trust

Tom Skinner, Director, Office of Coastal Zone Management

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Local Officials:

Mayor John Bell, Gloucester

Mayor Fred Kalisz, New Bedford

Mayor Thomas Menino, Boston

Public Members:

Bill Adler, Executive Director, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association;

Member, Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Board

Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation; Gulf of Maine Council Member

Jack Clarke, Director of Advocacy, Massachusetts Audubon Society

Tom Cox, President, Mass. Marine Trades Association; co-owner, Constitution Marina

C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr., Saltwater Sportsman Magazine;

Member, Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Board

Michael Egan, Founder, Carruth Capital, LLC

Mike Leone, Chair, American Association of Port Authorities;

(also Massport Port Director)

Vivien Li, Executive Director, The Boston Harbor Association

James McCarthy, Director, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

Judy McDowell, Director, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Sea Grant

Randy Tucker, Partner, Piper Rudnick

Greg Watson, Vice President, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative

Larry Wheatley, Attorney

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